

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group  
for  
Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #4  
January 4, 2007**

**Location:**

NCDOT Large Conference Room, Room 280, 401 Oberlin Road @ 9:00 a.m.

**Working Group Members in Attendance:**

Timothy Akers	Cliff Braam	Greg Brew	Loretta Barren
James Dunlop	Vickie Embry	Jeff Cox	Frank Hackney
Brad Hibbs	Mary Meletiou	Tyler Meyer	Richard Mullinax
Jimmy Newkirk	Tom Norman	Sarah O'Brien	Pete Schubert
Carrie Simpson	Charlie Zegeer		

**Working Group Members Absent:**

Daniel Keel              Margaret Landon    Greg Loy

**Guests in Attendance:**

Molly Cox (Southeast Raleigh High School)

**Scribe:**

Jeff Cox

**New Action Items:**

1. **Mary Meletiou and Cliff Braam to contact Peggy Schaefer, Director of the NC Justice Academy, and hopefully successfully obtain time on the agenda of the Training and Standards selection committee which is scheduled for Friday, January 12, 2007. The desire is to get a Bicycle and Pedestrian Laws Lesson Plan included in the 2008 Training and Standards for Law Enforcement Officers. The goal is to get additional spots on agendas at several other conferences of law enforcement officials over the next year. Mary should begin by contacting Kimberly Overton who oversees the continuing education for DAs and ADAs.**
2. **Tom Norman to present "Resolution to Support a Revision to GS 136-98 to Allow NC Counties to Construct and Maintain Roads and Related Infrastructure in the Vicinity of Schools" to the ECHS for consideration for adoption on January 16, 2007.**
3. **Mary Meletiou to continue development of revisions to Driver's Handbook.**
4. **Someone needs to develop a strategy to propose to the ECHS that would increase insurance points for not stopping at a school crossing, particularly where there is a crossing guard. Sarah O'Brien and Mary Meletiou to investigate information to increase penalties for driving illegally through a school crossing with a crossing guard.**
5. **Someone needs to develop a strategy to propose to the ECHS that would consider NC adopting a similar law change that the State of Washington recently adopted that changed their traffic laws to double fines for speeding in school zones. Mary**

**Meletiou and Sarah O'Brien will investigate the possibility of increasing fines for speeding in school zones.**

**6. Cliff Braam to develop language for a proposed strategy to revise NCDOT's Pedestrian Policy. All members of the working group are asked to submit to Cliff bullet points for this document.**

**7. Contact the Transportation Planning Branch to invite their participation in the BPWG.**

### **Ongoing Subcommittees**

- DMV Drivers Handbook subcommittee: Mary Meletiou (Chair), Tim Akers, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.
- Law Enforcement Education subcommittee: Tim Akers (Chair), Mary Meletiou, Margaret Landon, Frank Hackney, and Pete Schubert.
- Subcommittee to propose strategy to Executive Committee to broaden Pedestrian Policy: Greg Brew (Chair), Vickie Embry, Daniel Keel, Richard Mullinax, Tom Norman, Charlie Zegeer.
- Subcommittee to develop resolution on school site selection: Greg Loy (Chair), Jeff Cox, Mary Meletiou, Pete Schubert, and Sarah Worth.

### **Minutes:**

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

### **Task I – Welcome**

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### **Task II – Introductions**

Jeff Cox introduced his daughter Molly, who was observing this government agency meeting to fulfill a requirement for her Civics class at Southeast Raleigh High School.

### **Task III – Status of Bike/Ped Working Group Strategies --**

#### ***1. DMV Driver's Handbook Revision***

Mary Meletiou reported that she is making progress on the DMV Driver's Handbook Revisions. She and the DBPT transportation recently published an updated version of the document "Streetwise Cycling". She plans to incorporate much of the language in that into the revisions for the Driver's Handbook.

#### ***2. Law Enforcement Education***

Mary Meletiou presented an updated Strategy to Educate Law Enforcement that incorporated changes proposed by the ECHS when they adopted the strategy. They had requested that the court system be included as a target audience for the education. After some discussion, the words that were chosen to describe this target audience read as "members of the judiciary".

There is a need to develop a reasonably detailed lesson plan. Mary Meletiou reported that it appeared to be too late to have these lesson plans included in the 2008 "Training and Standards". Tim Akers and Frank Hackney both felt it was still possible because the meeting of officials that sets these standards is Friday, January 12, 2007. Mary should contact Peggy

Schaefer, Director of the NC Justice Academy, to obtain a spot on the agenda of that meeting. Mary and Cliff should coordinate and present at the meeting. Frank emphasized that this is perhaps the most important thing that can be done.

The Chiefs of Police Conference will be in Asheville on August 21. Need to get on their agenda.

Sheriffs Association has a conference at some point. Need to look into when that is and how to get on their agenda.

To stress the importance of quick action on this strategy, Tim spoke of several bicyclists who were illegally riding along the new Jacksonville Bypass, which is a facility with full control of access. When these bicyclists are stopped they often are unaware that it is illegal to bike on the facility. Jacksonville has a growing network of multi-use paths and is developing a map that would be used to inform the bicycling public of alternatives to the bypass. (He mentioned this one woman who had been regularly commuting on bicycle along the facility with children in tow in a cart. The children were not wearing the helmets that she had hanging from the side of the cart.)

Frank emphasized the need to get the chain of command to buy in to this training and then the rest will follow.

Jimmy Newkirk requested that emphasis be placed on the public health benefits of walking and riding and being physically active.

Tim said that there are over 400 law enforcement agencies in North Carolina. He estimates that there are over 17,000 total sworn officers in the state (not including county sheriffs departments).

Tim also said that the lesson plans that get a place in the "Training and Standards" must be detailed enough so instructors can appropriately and adequately teach on the subject.

Once the plan is in the "Training and Standards", community colleges and other institutions who participate in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) will get on board and will be able to sponsor the costs for printing and copying the document. It is estimated that 25,000 copies will be needed.

Tom asked if the Institute of Government could be an important focus. Frank felt that the Institute would be relatively ineffective when compared to getting the lesson plans included in the "Training and Standards"

Charlie mentioned that UNC is moving toward a higher level of education on bicycle and pedestrian issues.

Someone asked the question if these plans would cover the judiciary. Everyone agreed that this would not. A special focus is needed to educate the judiciary. We will need to get on the agendas at Conferences of District Attorneys, Assistant District Attorneys, and Judges. Action Item: Mary should begin by contacting Kimberly Overton who oversees the continuing education for DAs and ADAs.

Tim brought up the need to increase insurance points for not stopping at a school crossing, particularly where there is a crossing guard. Action Item: It was suggested that this could be a new strategy to propose to the ECHS.

Mary mentioned that the State of Washington recently changed their traffic laws to double fines for speeding in school zones. Action Item: It was suggested this could be another separate strategy to propose to the ECHS.

## **Task IV – Break**

There was a short break with refreshments.

## **Task V – Status of New Action Items from last meeting**

### **3. *Subcommittee on Broadening NCDOT's Pedestrian Policy***

Greg Brew spoke of the information he had gathered since the last meeting. After looking at several other states' pedestrian policies, he found that New Jersey had recently updated their policy to something that most resembles what would be good, in his opinion, in NC.

But it does raise many subjects that should be considered:

- How comprehensive should the policy be?
- Type of Accidents
- Pedestrian Level of Service
- Goals and Guidelines for Type of Facility
- Context Sensitive Design
- Walkable Community Design
- Define sidewalk guidelines.

Mary mentioned that she has done research on NCDOT policies that already address pedestrian issues and policies that don't address pedestrian issues but should.

Frank spoke of the importance of getting the ECHS to buy in to the need for pedestrian policy change, before we answer some of the questions raised by Greg.

Charlie mentioned also that the first step is to have a written strategy.

Tyler asked that we deal with question of when the Department should construct sidewalks and suggested that it be based on facility type.

Vickie emphasized that her position must deal with the effects of not building sidewalks where they should have been.

Jim mentioned the need to involve the Transportation Planning Branch because they are so involved in the comprehensive transportation plans, which include both pedestrian and bicycle aspects.

Tyler mentioned the State Transportation Plan.

Mary said that local plans must tie into state policies.

Tyler suggested that design details do not need to be part of the policy.

Tom suggested that DOT should get a Task Force to address inclusiveness issues.

Frank said that the Strategy should recommend that the Department form a real strategy task force to deal with pedestrian issues in a proactive way rather than a reactive way. MPOs and RPOs should be included along with the Feds. This should incorporate the 1999 Mainstreaming law and the 2000 Transportation Plan from the Legislature.

Tom reminded us that the currently Pedestrian Policy was put in place in 1993 and includes only the most basic elements. The policy was revised two years later.

Tom asked Cliff if he would draft the strategy to present to the ECHS. Cliff said he would, but that he would need everyone in the working group to send bullet points for inclusion into the strategy.

#### **4. *Resolution supporting County Construction of Transportation Facilities***

Mary Meletiou presented a draft of the “Resolution to Support a Revision to GS 136-98 to Allow NC Counties to Construct and Maintain Roads and Related Infrastructure in the Vicinity of Schools.” After some discussion and a couple of minor changes, the BPWG supported sending the proposed resolution as revised. The revised resolution is attached.

#### **5. *Subcommittee on School Site Selection***

Pete Schubert, on behalf of Greg Loy, presented a draft resolution “Promoting the Health, Wellness, and Public Education of our Children through Improved School Site Selection”.

Cliff suggested that this should become a Strategy rather than a resolution.

Tom questioned the quality of existing data on the impacts of school site selection.

Sarah spoke about the general guidelines used by school districts.

Mary said that school districts seem to site schools without regard to roadway infrastructure.

Cliff said that a strategy should encourage that school districts work with NCDOT to site schools.

Jim said that there is already a requirement that says something along the lines of “Schools shall provide site plans for NCDOT comments” from Joel Cranford’s group (MSTA – Municipal and School Transportation Assistance). He feels that this requirement should be moved earlier in the process so that NCDOT input is obtained during site selection and not just during site design (or after site design).

Tom pointed out that MTSA looks primarily at vehicular issues. Bicycle and Pedestrian issues are looked at secondarily.

Currently, many school districts site schools on availability of inexpensive land. Often developers offer land that is the least desirable for their developments.

Jimmy offered that the State Treasurer might be a champion because of his concerns with obesity and economics.

Charlie recalled that the State may have dropped minimum acreage requirement.

Tim said that Onslow County looks for a minimum of 30 acres for their school sites.

Tyler commented that site design could be more compact.

Pete mentioned that a new school that was sited adjacent to the American Tobacco Trail did not connect to the trail.

Jimmy suggested that we contact David Salvesen who is a school siting expert at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Pete restated the question of what our specific action steps are. –To require school siters to coordinate/cooperate with NCDOT, local planners and others.

Mary asked, “What is the carrot on both sides of the issue?”

Charlie responded with school bus fleet reduction. Mary said that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) might have statistics on buses.

Sarah mentioned research that shows that physically active children perform better on tests and get better scores.

Vicky suggested the possibility of changing school hours to avoid bussing children.

Charlie mentioned research that shows lack of activity among children translates into lifelong diseases.

### **Task VII – Next Meeting Date**

**Our next meeting will be in the Large Conference Room at 401 Oberlin Road at 9:00 on Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The meeting was adjourned promptly at noon.